

Mapline

A newsletter published by

The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography at
The Newberry Library

Number 93 Summer 2001

The Portuguese Quest for Taprobane

*As armas e os barões aninaldos
Que, da ocidentalpraia lusitana
Por marco nunca de antes navegados
Passaram ainda além da Taprobane*

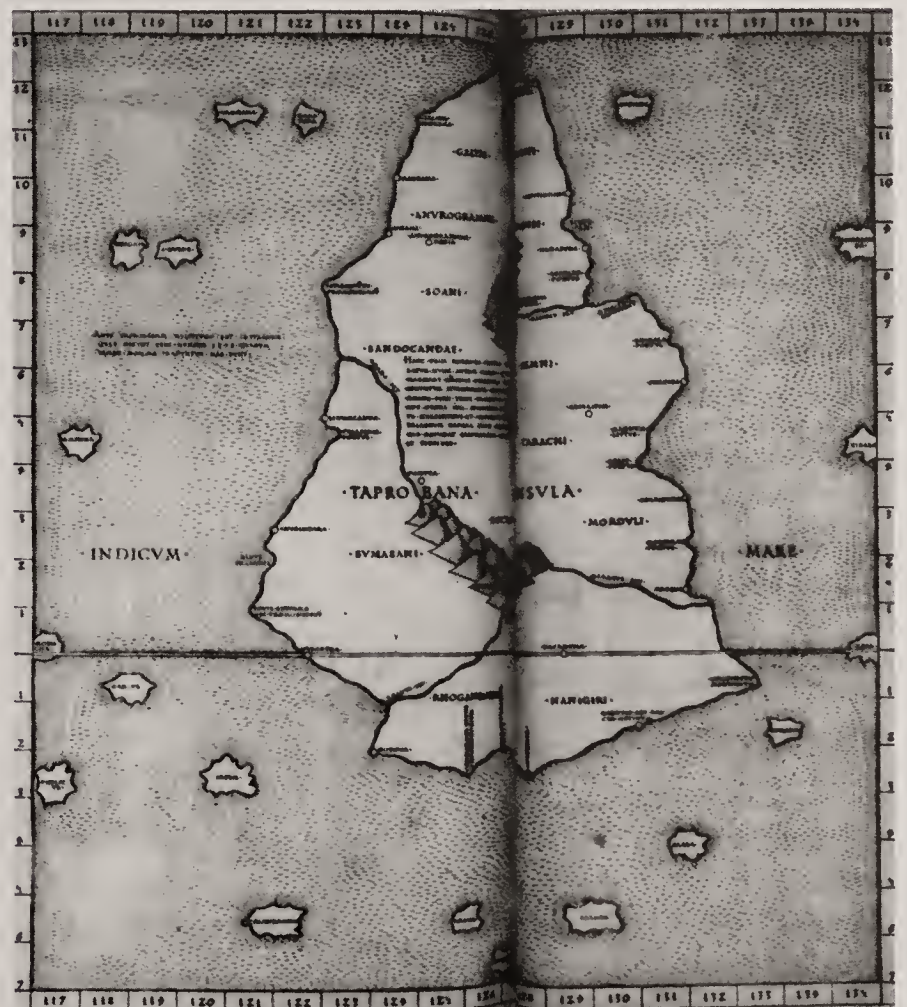
CAMÕES

Finding myself in a Lisbon street recently, I inquired from a middle-aged passerby how to get to the Gulbenkian Foundation. Instead of helping with my orientation he wished to know where I came from. "Oh! from Ceilão!" exclaimed the gentleman very politely in Portuguese and recited the above verse uninhibited. No wonder he took pride in recalling these lines from Camões, for Portugal is the only country in the world whose national poet (like Shakespeare to England) evokes Taprobane, an island of hallowed legend from the remote East, linking it with his country's legacy of discoveries.

A rough rendering in English of that verse is "Arms and the distinguished heroes, who from the western Lusitanian shore, over seas never navigated before, sailed even beyond Taprobane." Although the modern name of Ceilam appears with some frequency on the maps and in the chronicles of the period in which Camões lived, and despite the fact that this was the case even a century before he published the *Lusiads*, his preference for the ancient name of the island in the very first stanza of the opening canto of the poem was not merely a coincidence. The Latin form of the name *Tapi* appearing at the end of the verse to rhyme with the adjective *Lusitana*, the Roman name in antiquity, in the second line was also not a mere lyrical device.

Camões bestows the laurel crown upon his compatriot navigators for having sailed past Taprobane. This island, which formed a boundary of the world from classical times up until the time the

Portuguese made a landfall at Ceylon in 1507, conjured up in the Renaissance mind all the mythical attributes and the fabulous wealth of a legendary island. Camões was conscious of the power of this imagery of an island reaching to a remote past and located on the eastern edges of the earth; his compatriot Pirrus de Noha had a similar idea of Taprobane in the previous century. Noha expressed his wish to go there by a long route, without having the least intuition that one hundred years later his wish would be accomplished via a maritime route that the Portuguese discovered by way of rounding the Cape of



Ptolemy, "Taprobana," in *Geographia* (Rome, 1508). Edward E. Ayer Collection, The Newberry Library.

Good Hope.

Although the Ptolemaic map attributed to Noha found in the manuscript of Pomponius Mela's work was not typical for the period, it has preserved for us an image of the world as it must have existed in the mind of a Portuguese geographer. With the arrival of Vasco da Gama in India in 1498, there opened another stage in the search for Taprobane described by Eratosthenes, Pliny, and Ptolemy. Travelers and sailors began venturing further from known locations in the hope of finding Taprobane in the vicinity of India. The feelings of uncertainty and also of conviction related to the location of Taprobane as revealed in their accounts show the nature of their quest in the exploration of the Indian Ocean in those early days of navigation.

Two unique world maps from the eve of the Portuguese discovery of Ceylon have reached us through surviving Italian copies. They epitomize the geographical approaches that culminated in the depiction of Taprobane and the state of understanding that preceded its imminent exploration. The way the cartographers of these two charts conceived the island-region visually summarizes the historical context in which they interpreted information already circulating about Taprobane against the fresh information just arriving from the voyages of discoveries. The cartographers therefore were confronted with the problem of reconciling and updating the discordant accounts, so that they could geographically visualize and translate them onto the charts now known as "Cantino" (1502) and "Caverio" (1505).

Ceylon appears on these charts, for the first time in the history of cartography in the West, reduced to tolerable proportions in relation to peninsular India and conceived in such a manner that it will soon be evolving into its real contours. This is the earliest image of the island to have appeared on Portuguese maps. However, opposite Ceylon, facing the "Malagha" [Malayan] peninsula, is "Ataprobana," a name given to a large island, rectangular in form, featuring several place-names such as "Amotora," a name which evokes an obvious affinity with Sumatra. This distinction between "Ceylon" and "Ataprobana" is very much in line with the distinction that Fra Mauro had made by transferring the classical name of Ceylon to Sumatra, calling it Taprobana. Thus, the authors of "Cantino" and "Caverio" charts share with medieval mapmakers and travelers the error of assigning the name Taprobane to Sumatra.

Meanwhile, the king of Portugal, Dom Manuel, seems to have at that time allied himself with those who thought that Taprobane was Ceylon. The

Lisbon-based Moravian editor Valentin Fernandes did not have the least doubt as to a straightforward identification in the preface to his 1502 Portuguese translation of Marco Polo: "In front of the above mentioned cape lies the most famous city and the island of Taprobane, which is now called Seylam." Making "the most famous city" out of the island of Taprobane is a minor error of Fernandes' not to be held against him. Despite the King's official affirmation of support for the geographical research and discoveries recorded in his diverse letters, orders, and instructions, the authors of so-called "Cantino" and "Caverio" charts do not appear to have been capable of dissociating themselves from the old way of thinking that held Taprobane to be Ceylon. They persisted in maintaining the medieval cartographic tradition in which the legendary island had a definite place.

Ten years after the "Caverio" chart (1505) there appeared in the town of Abrantes (where the king of Portugal resided at the time) a pamphlet recounting the first contact of the Portuguese with the kings of Ceylon titled: "The Acquisition of the Island of Taprobane in Eastern Ethiopia." One wonders whether this linking of two disparately situated countries might have been a conscious decision of the Portuguese with the goal of misleading their rivals. Whatever ignorance or premeditation brought about the error, Dom Manuel had a great deal of "evidence" to show to the Castilian kings in his effort to claim a large share of the geographical discoveries to be apportioned to the Lusitanians during the scramble for land that followed the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494/1506). Ought we not to see in the term "acquisition" the sense of a metaphor for the inclusion of Taprobane within the orbit of Portuguese discoveries, since, at that date, the Portuguese only had a sense of their way through these areas? A number of editions of the same pamphlet, bearing a variety of titles, registers the extent of the publicity given to the Portuguese "acquisition" of Taprobane.

Nevertheless, the world map by Johannes Ruysch (pictured at right) which appeared in 1507, separates Ceylon from Taprobane and registers very clearly on the map itself the announcement of the arrival of the Portuguese in Taprobane. A cosmographer from Krakow, Johannes Glogoviensis, maintained that the island of Taprobane was found under the equator. Speaking about its fame in wealth, he went on to state that "this had been attested, in the years 1501 and 1501 [sic], by those who were sent there by the king of Portugal in search of the islands in the world." As Ceylon is located a little less than ten degrees above the equator, Glogoviensis' Taprobane might have



Johannes Ruysch, "World Map" in Ptolemy, *Geographia* (Rome, 1508). Edward E. Ayer Collection, The Newberry Library.

referred to Sumatra, which is athwart the equator.

Barros, in an attempt to explain away the modest size of Taprobane in his day and thus avoid the necessity to disclaim the information of Ptolemy, who bestowed a major importance on Taprobane in exaggerating its size fifteen degrees lengthwise, that Barros decided to write: "According to what geographers have written about it, it seems that in the very ancient times, it [Ceylan] was as big as the inhabitants say where they affirm that it had a circumference of more than 700 leagues though little by little the sea had eaten into it; this is the reason why without doubt he (if we wish to salvage Ptolemy) assigned to it an extension of two and one-half degrees in the length beyond the equator towards the south."

This demonstration by Barros reveals how the historian of Portuguese discoveries has recourse to the consequences of a geomorphological process, in other words, the erosion of the island by the sea, to explain the changed dimensions of Ceylon. His explanation does not depend so much on his obvious willingness to emphasize the geomorphological factor by way of an evasion but on his implicit, tenacious wish to save Ptolemy, the great authority of classical geography and thus establish the fact that the map of Taprobane given in his *Geography* and the Ceylon contemporary to Barros are one and the same.

In point of fact, Taprobane was considered synonymous with Sumatra not only by the geographers and historians living in metropolitan Lisbon but also by the Portuguese themselves living in the East. Several literary sources bear witness to this, including Garcia da Orta's *Colloquios*, published in 1563 in Goa, the capital of the Portuguese empire in Asia. Camões, the minstrel *par excellence* of the Portuguese discoveries, makes Taprobane but one with Ceylon in stanza 51 of canto 10: "In his turn the noble isle of Taprobane also famous then for its ancient name that rendered it powerful and proud[...]." On the other hand, Camões, while living in Goa some ten years before as a simple soldier, had assimilated Taprobane into Sumatra in the ode addressed to the then viceroy of India: "Trapobonico Achem[?], que ho mar molesta," which translated literally means "Trapobanian Achem, that the sea bothers." Thus Camões had translated Atjēh (pronounced Achem by the Portuguese) to Taprobane assuming it then as forming part of it. The adjective "Taprobanic" or "Taprobanian" encompasses the entire territory "of Sumatra" where Atjēh is situated.

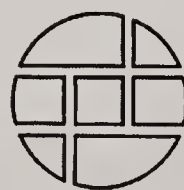
Faria e Sousa commented on the introductory stanza of this article to the effect that: "Because if Ceylon is the island of Taprobane, the poet saying that they went beyond it and met other people, then we

have to understand that they reached the island of Samatra; and if Samatra is Taprobane, then they would have gone even beyond and reached the Malucas. When all is said and done, the fact that they had reached Taprobane (even though by another route) was a great feat for that was the eastern end of the world for this eastern part of the world according to the Ancients [...]."

An echo of this debate is found in the writings of the Portuguese mathematician and "Cosmographer of the State," Eredia, a near contemporary of Orta and Camões. Eredia, who embarked on a voyage of discovery in search of the Island of Gold, found himself in the waters of Sumatra, a land that he called Taprobane. In an essay he wrote in 1615 he seems to have realized the mistake he had made in his geography and had attempted to rectify the error with the statement: "Ceylon which is otherwise called Taprobane by Pliny and Ptolemy." What is more, Eredia juxtaposed a map of the ancient Taprobane with another he drew of Ceylam, driving home the point that both these names meant one and the same island.

Gleaned from a variety of disparate sources, these scanty glimpses into the issues surrounding Taprobane shed light on the process of discoveries involving Portuguese cosmographical theorizing. These sparse notes help us expand our understanding of a little-known area of explorations that concerned a remote outpost of the Portuguese empire, called "Taprobane cum Ceildo" which lives in the minds of the Portuguese people as immortalized by Camões in the opening lines of the *Lusiads*.

Ananda Abeysdeera
Kelaniya, Sri Lanka



Mapline (ISSN 0196-1881) is published by the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography at the Newberry Library. The cost of an annual subscription is \$10 for delivery to North America, \$15 for all other subscribers. Back issues (as available) can be purchased for \$2.50 each. An index of back issues and selected current features can be viewed online at www.newberry.org/nl/smith/mapline.html. Submission of news items or lead articles for *Mapline* is encouraged, and should be addressed to Susan Hanf, *Mapline* Editor, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610-3380, email smithctr@newberry.org.

The 14th Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography “A Taste for Maps: Commerce and Cartography in Early Modern Europe”

Since 1966, the Kenneth Nebenzahl, Jr., Lectures in the History of Cartography have been dedicated to exploring promising new themes and lines of research in the study of the science, art, and culture of mapmaking. Through the years the “Nebenzahls” have explored the relationship between cartography and art and literature, fostered the study of mapmaking and statecraft, and called attention to the cartographic dimensions of the encounter between Europeans and native Americans. This October 11-13, the lectures will return to fairly familiar ground, the trade in printed maps in early modern Europe, but promise a fresh take on the subject focusing not on the products but on the business of mapmaking.

The concept of the lectures as well as the title come from Dr. Mary Pedley, the principal speaker for the lectures. Dr. Pedley, a historian of cartography based at the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan, will contribute three lectures to the program, beginning on Thursday evening, October 11, and continuing through Friday, October 12. Her lectures synthesize years of research on the business records, correspondence, and publications of English and French publishers. In the first, titled “Getting to Market: From Map to Print in London and Paris,” Dr. Pedley identifies the principle actors involved in map production, their skills and background, their motivations, and how they gained authority for their work. Her Friday morning lecture, “Giving Pleasure to the Public: Adding Up the Cost,” explores the costs of producing maps for a commercial market and how publishers managed these costs and weighed them against the potential market for their maps. In Dr. Pedley’s third lecture, “Good Map/Bad Map: Telling the Difference,” presented on Friday afternoon, she focuses on how maps were promoted, how they were received and used by various market sectors, and how and by whom maps were judged and criticized.

On Saturday morning, the program concludes with three shorter papers that examine the business of mapmaking in three other European countries. The three scholars contributing to this panel, Dr. David Woodward (The University of Wisconsin-Madison), Dr. Peter van der Krogt (Universiteit Utrecht), and Dr. Markus Heinz (Staatsbibliothek Berlin-Preussischer Kulturbesitz) have each been asked to amplify Dr. Pedley’s observations, offering the perspective of their own research on the map trade in Italy, the Netherlands, and Germany. A brief reception follows the opening lecture on Thursday evening. Another reception will be held immediately following Friday afternoon’s program.

Visitors to the lectures will also have the opportunity throughout to view *Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library*, an exhibit that we are preparing for the occasion showcasing seventy-seven of the Newberry’s rarest and most intriguing maps.

As always, the Nebenzahl Lectures are free and open to the public. However, we do ask for advance registrations. For reservations and information, please contact the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610 USA; phone 312-255-3659; e-mail smithctr@newberry.org.

IMCoS 2001, the Twentieth International Symposium of the International Map Collectors’ Society, will convene at the Newberry after the conclusion of the Nebenzahl Lectures, on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 P.M. A registration fee is required for participation in IMCoS 2001; for more information contact the Smith Center at the address listed above.

A Taste for Maps	Schedule of Events
Thursday, October 11, 2001	
3:00–8:00 PM Registration Desk Open	
8:00 PM Opening Session	
<i>Getting to Market: From Map to Print in London and Paris</i>	
Mary Pedley (William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan)	
Reception follows.	
Friday, October 12, 2001	
10:00 AM–12:00 PM Session Two	
<i>Giving Pleasure to the Public: Adding Up the Cost</i>	
Mary Pedley (William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan)	
2:00–4:00 PM Session Three	
<i>Good Map/Bad Map: Telling the Difference</i>	
Mary Pedley (William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan)	
4:00–7:00 PM Reception and Guided Exhibit Tours	
<i>Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library</i>	
Saturday, October 13, 2001	
9:30–11:30 AM Closing Session	
<i>Shorter Papers & Commentaries</i>	
<i>The Map Trade in Sixteenth-Century Italy</i>	
David Woodward (The University of Wisconsin-Madison)	
<i>Dutch Commercial Map-making in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries</i>	
Peter van der Krogt (Universiteit Utrecht)	
<i>Commercial Aspects of the Map Trade in Eighteenth-Century Germany</i>	
Markus Heinz (Staatsbibliothek Berlin-Preussischer Kulturbesitz)	

Baroque Era Cartography: Alternate Names for the Americas

Early maps of the continents of North and South America used a variety of nomenclature including *Mon-dus Novus*, *Terra Nova*, *Terra Firme*, *Tierra de Florida*, *Tierra de Cuba*, for the continents before the name America was universally accepted. Some of these names appeared on one or two maps, others had a broader diffusion for a period of time. In 1997, while a participant in the Cartography and History Summer Institute at the Smith Center, I edited a work called "Cartography of the Mexico-United States Frontier. Newberry Library Slide Set Number 21." My research for this publication drew my attention to several maps which used as alternative or coequal titles for the continents of North and South America, the titles "America Mexicana" and "America Peruana." Through further research I have discovered that other maps also used these titles, and that while several scholars have described individual maps which used this nomenclature, they have not described the larger series of sixteenth and seventeenth century maps which use these names or identified the larger significance of the usage.

The series of published maps using the names "America Mexicana" and "America Peruana" begins with the Petrus Plancius map "Orbis terrarum typus de integro multis in locis emendatus auctore Petro Plancio of 1590." In 1596 Theodore Bry also used this nomenclature in his map "America sive Novus Orbis." There is also a 1576 map, "America Peruana," by Gerard De Jode depicting South America with this nomenclature for the southern continent. In all, well over forty published maps dating from 1590 to about 1690 used these names. Upon reflection it is logical that during this period these names were being used as the main titles for the continents, as during that period, Mexico and Peru were the best known geographical entities on the northern and the southern continents of the Americas.

To verify this hypothesis, I examined geographical reference works of the period to see if they provided evidence supporting this viewpoint. A major period reference source, *The Great Historical, Geographical and Poetical Dictionary* by Louis Moreri, confirms my supposition. Originally published in France in 1681, it was translated, expanded and published in English in 1694. Volume one of the dictionary specifically states in the entry under "America":

America or the West Indies, one of the four parts of the habitable America or the West Indies, first discovered by Christopher Columbus, a Genoese in 1492. And from Americo Vespucchi a Florentine first called America. ... This

vast continent is divided into the Northern and the Southern America. The Northern, which is also called America Mexicana from Mexico, is bounded by the Pacific Sea, and L'Estreche d'Anian to the west and south, to the east by the Bay Mexico, and the North Sea, and to the north by the whole Arctic frozen regions yet unknown; containing Canada or New France, Estotiland, Florida, New England, New Denmark, New Spain, or the Kingdom of Mexico, comprehending Yucatan. Nicaragua, Nueva-Galicia, Michoacan, Guatemala, and Honduras, New Granada, Virginia, the Isle of California,, Cuba, Hispaniola, and innumerable others called the Antilles. The Southern America, which is also called Peruvian America has to the North the North Sea, to the east the Aethiopic Ocean, to the south the Magellanic Sea, and the Streights of Magellan and Maire, and to the west the Pacific Sea. The Regions of Southern America are Brazil, Chili, Guiana, Terra Magellanica, New Andaluscia, New Granada, Paraguay, Parana, Parria, Popajan, the Kingdom of Peru, the Terra Firma, Tierra Del Fuego, Tucuman, Venezuela. The Spaniards have within their Dominions, which are the largest part of America, 5 Arch-Bishoprics, and have 34 Bishoprics...

Undoubtedly there are more maps or map editions of the same period which will be found which used this nomenclature. This then constituted an alternative geographical nomenclature for many maps of the early Baroque period.

Antonio Rios-Bustamante
University of Wyoming

Bibliography

- Bolea, Leon. *Viento Del Noroeste*. Mexico: Editorial Itzaccihuatl, 1972.
- Leon Portilla, Miguel. *Cartografia y Cronicas De La Antigua California*. Mexico: UNAM, 1989.
- Moreland, Carl and David Bannister. *Antique Maps*. London: Phaidon Press, 1993.
- Moreri, Louis. *Le grand dictionnaire historique, Lyon, et se vend à Paris, chez Jacques Villery*. 1681.
- Moreri, Louis. *Great Historical, Geographical and Poetical Dictionary*. Sixth Edition. London, 1694. Corrected and enlarged by Monsieur Le Clerc in two volumes in folio print. London: Routledge/Thoemmes Press, 1999.



Theodore de Bry, "America sive novus orbis respectu eurpaeorum inferior globi terrestis pars" (1596) in *America pars sexta sive historiae ab Hieronymo Bézono* (1624) in v. 12 of DeBry's collection of voyages [Frankfurt, 1590 – 1634]. Edward E. Ayer Collection, The Newberry Library.

Reyes Vayssade, Martin, ed., *Cartografia Historica Del Encuentro De Dos Mundos*. Mexico: INEGI, 1992.

Rios-Bustamante, Antonio. *Cartography of the Mexico-United States Frontier*. Chicago: Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, Newberry Library, 1997.

Shirley, Rodney. *The Mapping of the World: Early Printed World Maps 1472-1700*. London: New Holland, 1993.

Wolff, Hans. *America: Early Maps of the New World*. Munich: Prestel, 1992.

Editor's Note

Professor Rios-Bustamante's list of published maps dating from 1590 to about 1690 that use "America Mexicana" for North America and "America Peruana" for South America will be made available on-line at <http://www.newberry.org/nl/smith/mapline.html> beginning in September 2001.

Recently Published

Dekker, Elly and Silke Ackerman with contributions by National Maritime Museum staff. *Globes at Greenwich: A Catalog of the Globes and Armillary Spheres in the National Maritime Museum*. Greenwich: Oxford University Press and the National Maritime Museum, 1999. ISBN 0-19-856559-3, \$160.

This sumptuously illustrated and boxed folio-sized book boasting over 100 color images documents the world's largest collection of globes and armillary spheres. This is the first of an anticipated series dedicated to describing some 5000 navigational, astronomical, and marine surveying instruments at the National Maritime Museum. Especially noteworthy are the series of expanded diagrams and detailed photos in the chapter on clockwork globes. The inclusion of these illustration greatly enhances the understanding of how

The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography was founded in 1972 at the Newberry Library to promote the study of the history of cartography through public programs, research projects, fellowships, courses of instruction, and publications. Further information about the Center is available on request from the Director, **James R. Akerman**, The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610-3380; email akermanj@newberry.org. Visit the Newberry Library's Web site, www.newberry.org, to find more information about its fellowships, cartographic collections, and the various activities and publications of the Smith Center.

these pieces work. The authors individually describe 314 globes and armillary spheres, of which 70 predate 1700 and 19 predate 1600. Part one of *Globes at Greenwich* consists of nine introductory chapters explaining the historical, artistic, and scientific significance of globes as well as their construction, conservation, and variety. The chapter on the history of the collection provides an excellent background for the catalog that follows in Part Two. The catalog presents detailed, profusely illustrated, descriptions of all of the globes and armillary spheres in the collection in four categories: namely armillary spheres, Islamic globes, western manuscript globes, and western printed globes. Following the catalog are eight appendices covering useful tables such as chronology by country of origin, constellations, star names, and explorers. *Globes at Greenwich* will prove to be an invaluable research tool for the student of globes.

Arthur Holzheimer

Smith Center News Briefs

The Nebenzahl Prize for Dissertations in the History of Cartography

The Smith Center is pleased to announce that the Nebenzahl Prize for Dissertations in the History of Cartography for 2001 has been awarded to Dr. Daniel Birkholz. Dr. Birkholz received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Minnesota in 1999. His prize-winning dissertation, "The King's Two Maps: Cartography and Culture in Thirteenth-century England" challenges the traditional consensus view that medieval maps of the world, or *mappaemundi*, are exclusively theological in function. Drawing on a variety of literary and cartographic evidence, Birkholz argues that the secular roles of these maps are equally strong, particularly in relation projects dear to their royal patrons, such as crusades and territorial expansion.

The Nebenzahl Prize for Dissertations in the History of Cartography is awarded every two years to the author of a recently completed dissertation which is judged by the prize committee to have made the most significant contribution to the study of the history of cartography. The submission deadline for the 2003 competition is November 1, 2002. For further information, contact the Hermon Dunlap Smith Center, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610; phone 312-255-3659; e-mail smithctr@newberry.org.

“Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library” to Open in October

“Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library,” an exhibit showcasing seventy-seven of the Newberry’s finest maps, will open on Wednesday, October 10, 2001 in conjunction with the 14th Nebenzahl Lectures in the History of Cartography and the IMCoS 2001 Symposium. The exhibit will run through January 19, 2001 and is free and open to the public. An exhibit catalog including images of all the maps featured in the exhibit and a brief history of the Newberry’s map collection will be available for purchase in the bookstore. If you are interested in programs associated with this exhibit, contact the Newberry Library Center for Public Programs at 312-255-3700; e-mail pubprog@newberry.org.

IMCoS 2001 Symposium

The Smith Center, the Chicago Map Society, the Map Society of Wisconsin, and the American Geographic Society Collection of the University of Milwaukee are pleased to host the 2001 International Map Collectors’ Symposium (IMCoS), October 11 – 16, 2001. The festivities will begin at the Newberry Library on October 11th and will move to Milwaukee, Wisconsin on the 15th. A post-conference tour is offered on the 16th. For more information, contact IMCoS 2001, The Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St, Chicago, IL 60610, USA; phone 312-255-3659; e-mail smithctr@newberry.org; or visit <http://www.newberry.org/nl/smith/imcos2001.html>.



Detail from Jacopo de Barbari, “Venetie MD,” 1500. Novacco Collection, The Newberry Library. This is one of the maps that will be featured in “Cartographic Treasures of the Newberry Library” this fall.

Briefly Noted

Fellowships and Prizes

The Eighth Series of J. B. Harley Research Fellowships in the History of Cartography. The Trustees of the J.B. Harley Research Fellowships Trust Fund are pleased to announce the eighth series of awards. The fellowships are designed to assist research in the London map collections. The winners of the 2001 Fellowships are: Dr. Sonja Brentjes (Institute for the History of Science, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany) for her project "The Use of Arabic and Persian Sources in Western-European Maps of the Middle East and Northern Africa between 1550 and 1700" (3 weeks); Neil Safier (Department of History, The John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA) for his work on "Turning Water into Lines: The Cartographic Construction of Amazonia from Fritz to Ferreira, 1707 – 1792" (3 weeks); and René Tebel (German Maritime Museum, Bremerhaven, Germany) for her study, "Significance of Ships on Maps as a Historical Source" (2 weeks).

Exhibits

Highway maps, depicting everything from the legendary Route 66 to the evolution of Baxter State Park, are showcased in "Road Maps: The American Way," the new exhibit at the University of Southern Maine's Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education in Portland, Maine. Though long neglected, road maps have come into their own as highly prized collectibles. "Road Maps: The American Way" recalls the early days of the nation's developing transportation network with bicycle maps, trolley maps, road atlases, and related artifacts, most of which are taken from the first half of the 20th century. The exhibit features a special section devoted to Route 66 and the popular song by Bobby Troup that immortalized it. The song, which was recorded by the Nat King Cole Trio, the Andrews Sisters and the Rolling Stones, among many others, is commemorated in a 1946 AAA map embellished with snapshots and the cover of the song sheet. The exhibit runs through December 20, 2001. Call 780-4850 for hours, or visit <http://www.usm.maine.edu/maps>.

"Fantasy to Federation: European maps of Australia to 1901" is a new exhibition at the Exhibition Centre of Cambridge University Library. Included are 35 maps, views and manuscripts telling the story of Australia as seen through the eyes of European cartographers from the early explorers until the creation of the modern federal state in 1901. All of the items are from Cambridge University Library. The exhibition is open

April 3 to September 15, 2001 (closed August 27). Admission is free. Further information can be found at <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk>

From May 12 – October 28, 2001 some 100 maps and views concerning the historic town Landshut in Bavaria and the development of the cartographic image of its surrounding area will be shown on location in the **The Museum im Kreuzgang** in Landshut. For further information please contact Museen der Stadt Landshut at stadt.landshut.museum@landshut.org; phone (08 71) 92 23 89-0; fax (08 71) 92 23 89-9.

"Lie of the Land: The Secret Life of Maps" will be open at The British Library from July 27, 2001 through April 7, 2002. "Lie of the Land" will show that maps are human documents like letters or diaries. They all reveal as much about the people who created them as they do about those who might have used them. Drawn entirely from the British Library's collection, the exhibit items span hundreds of years and reflect many different cultures. Admission is free. For further information please contact Craig Westwood at 020 7412 7115; e-mail craig.westwood@bl.uk; or visit www.bl.uk.

Conferences and Lectures

The 20th International Cartographic Conference, "Mapping the 21st Century," will be held in Beijing from August 6 – 10, 2001. For information and registration materials, please contact LOC for ICC2001, State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, 9 Sanlihe Road, Beijing 100830, China; phone +86-10-6834 6614, 6833 9095; fax +86-10-6831 1564, 6833 9095; e-mail: icc2001@sbsm.gov.cn; or visit www.sbsm.gov.cn/icc2001.

The Society of Cartographers will hold its annual Summer School from September 3 – 6, 2001 in Leicester, UK. Events include a program of technical sessions related to the theme of the conference: "2001, a Cartographic Space Odyssey," a series of workshops, exhibitions, and excursions. Further details are available at <http://www.geog.le.ac.uk/conferences/Soc2001> or contact Kate Moore, 2001 SoC Summer School, Department of Geography, University of Leicester, Leicester, LE1 7RH; phone 0116 252 3855; fax 0116 252 3854.

The Smithsonian Associates will present **Mapping of the Gettysburg Campaign: North and South** on September 13, 2001. For additional information visit www.CivilWarStudies.org or e-mail rap@tsa.si.edu

Long recognized for its stunning natural attractions, Denver has also become a prominent site of educational and cultural institutions, many related to the history of

exploration and discovery. **The 2001 Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries** will offer much of both attributes to SHD registrants from **September 6 - 9, 2001**. Fifteen to twenty professional papers on exploration and discovery, delivered by the authors within a larger agenda of focused social and educational functions, will anchor the meeting. For additional information contact Sanford Bederman, 5502 Laurel Ridge Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30005; e-mail Sanford-Bederman@aol.com; or visit www.sochistdisc.org.

The British Cartographic Society 38th Annual Symposium will be held at Liverpool University on **September 13 - 16, 2001**. Scheduled events and topics are: The Helen Wallis Memorial Lecture, The Geography and History of Liverpool, Mapping Urban Spaces, Ordnance Survey - Review and Prospects, Marketing Maps and Cartographic Products, and Maritime Mapping. Additional information is available from Dr. David Fairbairn, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Geomatics, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU, England, Tel: +44 (0)191 222 6353. Fax: +44 (0) 191 222 8691.

XXI Annual Meeting of the North American Cartographic Information Society to be held in Portland, Oregon, **October 3 - 6, 2001**. The NACIS Program Committee invites you to participate in this meeting by presenting a poster or exhibit. All cartographic-related topics are welcome. Contact Jeffrey McMichael at jmcmichael@gsu.edu by August 24, 2001 with exhibit/poster title, the names and affiliations of authors, and exhibit space needs.

The first meeting of the Eleventh Series of the **Lectures in the History of Cartography** will be held on **October 25, 2001** at 5:00 P.M. at the Warburg Institute in London. Dr A.C. Hiatt (Trinity College, Cambridge) will present "Forged Charters and Medieval Trade Maps: Title to Land, Then and Now." For further information contact Catherine Delano Smith at +44 (0) 20 8346 5112 or Tony Campbell at tony.campbell@bl.uk.

This year's **E. G. R. Taylor Lecture** will take place at the Royal Geographical Society on **November 13, 2001** at 6:30 P.M. Dr. Anita McConnell to speak on "Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli (1658-1730): From Professional Soldier to 'Father of Oceanography'." The Lecture is arranged by the Institute of Navigation, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Society for Nautical Research. The lecture is free, and open to all.

Web News

OPLIN (Ohio Public Library Information Network)

and OhioLINK (Ohio's consortium of college and university libraries) are now providing Internet access to **Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps** for over 400 Ohio communities for the years 1868 through the 1960s. This research database is available from terminals within Ohio libraries or by remote access which requires the user to input an Ohio library card number or ID from an Ohio college or university. For information on this project, visit www.oplin.oh.us/index.cfm?ID=2288.

IEG-MAPS: A New Server for Digital Maps on German and European History at the Institut of European History in Mainz, Germany, IEG-MAPS, is now available at <http://www.ieg-maps.uni-mainz.de>. IEG-MAPS contains downloadable maps on five general themes: Germany's territorial and political development since 1812; German economic integration in the 19th century; The administrative development of larger German territorial states since 1815; The development of lines of transport; and Europe's territorial and political development since 1812. All maps can be viewed and downloaded in Postscript and PDF formats. At present there are about 80 maps; this number will increase to approximately 150 by the end of this year.

Map Societies

The Washington Map Society will meet on **September 20, 2001** (tentative date) at 7 P.M. in the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress. Mr. Thomas A. Hennig of the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) will present *Results from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM)*. Mr. Hennig, the NIMA project manager for SRTM, will share information on this recent government satellite mission which mapped 80 percent of the Earth's land mass and 95 percent of Earth's populated areas. For additional information contact Thomas F. Sander at 703-426-2880.

The Rocky Mountain Map Society has announced the **First Annual Rocky Mountain Antique Map Fair**. The Fair will take place on Saturday, **October 6, 2001** from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and will be preceded by a dinner on Friday evening. The cost for the dinner is still tentative. Admission for the map sale will be minimal and will be charged at the door. The fair will take place in the conference center of the Denver Public Library, main branch, in downtown Denver. The library is home to one of the finest collections of western U.S. cartography anywhere and the organizers hope to schedule an exhibit to coincide with the Fair. Inquiries may be directed to Myron West, Rocky Mountain Map Society 1790 Hudson St., Denver CO 80220; phone 307-638-2396; e-mail farwesttc@sisna.com.

Map Talk

Jeremiah found himself indoors, perfecting his Draftsmanship, bending all day over the work-table, grinding and mixing his own Inks, — siftings and splashes ev'rywhere of King's Yellow, Azure, red Orpiment, Indian lake, Verdigris, Indigo, and Umber. Levigating, elutriating, mixing the gum-water, pouncing and rosining the paper to prevent soak-through, — preparation he would once rashly have hurried 'round or in great part omitted, was now necessary, absolutely necessary to do right. He must, if one day call'd upon, produce an overhead view of a World that was, in truth-like detail, one he'd begun in silence to contrive, — a Map entirely within his mind, of a world he could escape to, if he had to. If he had to, he would enter it entirely but never get lost, for he would have this Map, and in it, spread below, would lie ev'rything, — Mountian of Glass, Sea of Sand, miraculous Springs, Volcanoes, Sacred Cities, mile-deep Chasm, Serpent's Cave, endless Prairie....another Chapbook-Fancy with each Deviation and Dip of the Needle.

— Thomas Pynchon, *Mason & Dixon*. New York: Henry Holt, 1997. 242.